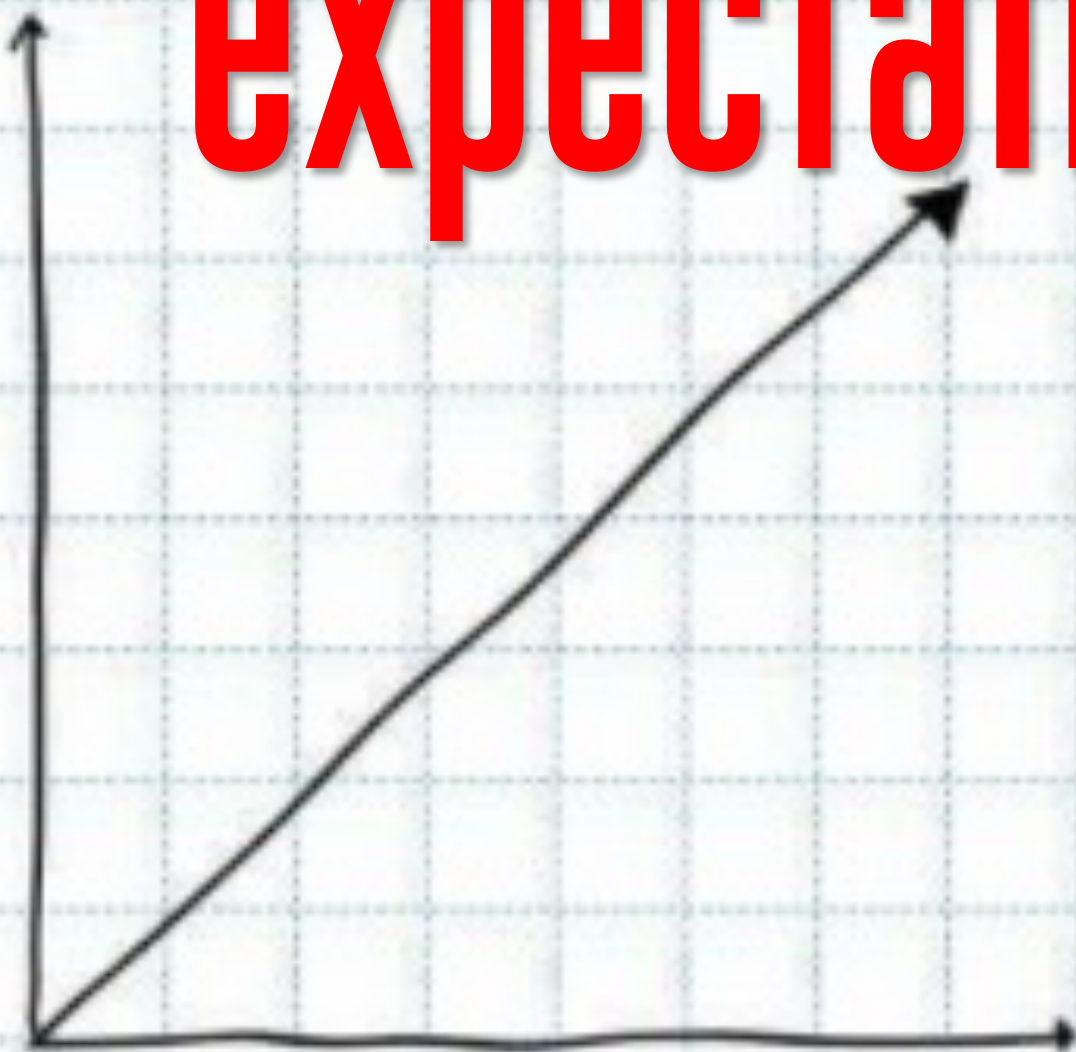
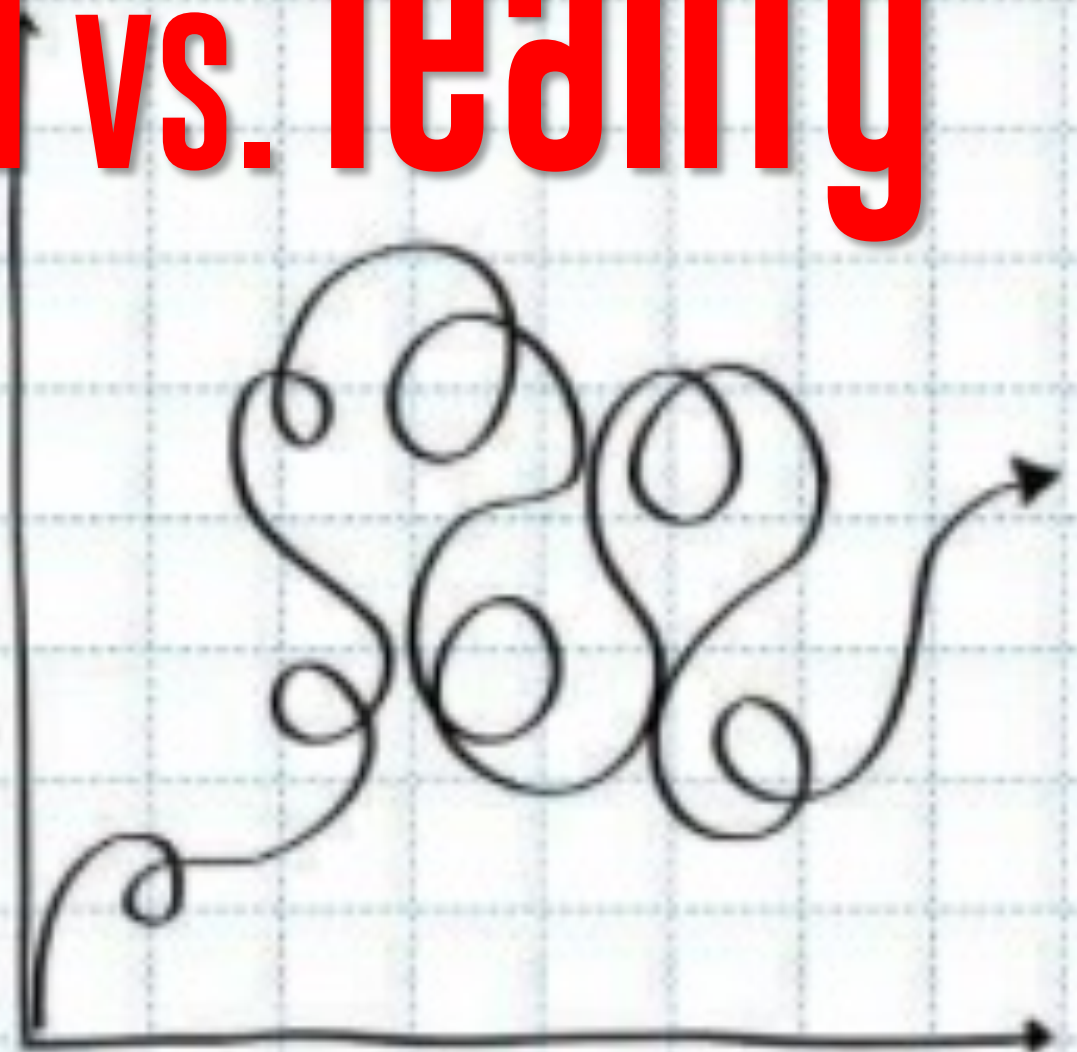


# expectation vs. reality



What I planned.



what happened.



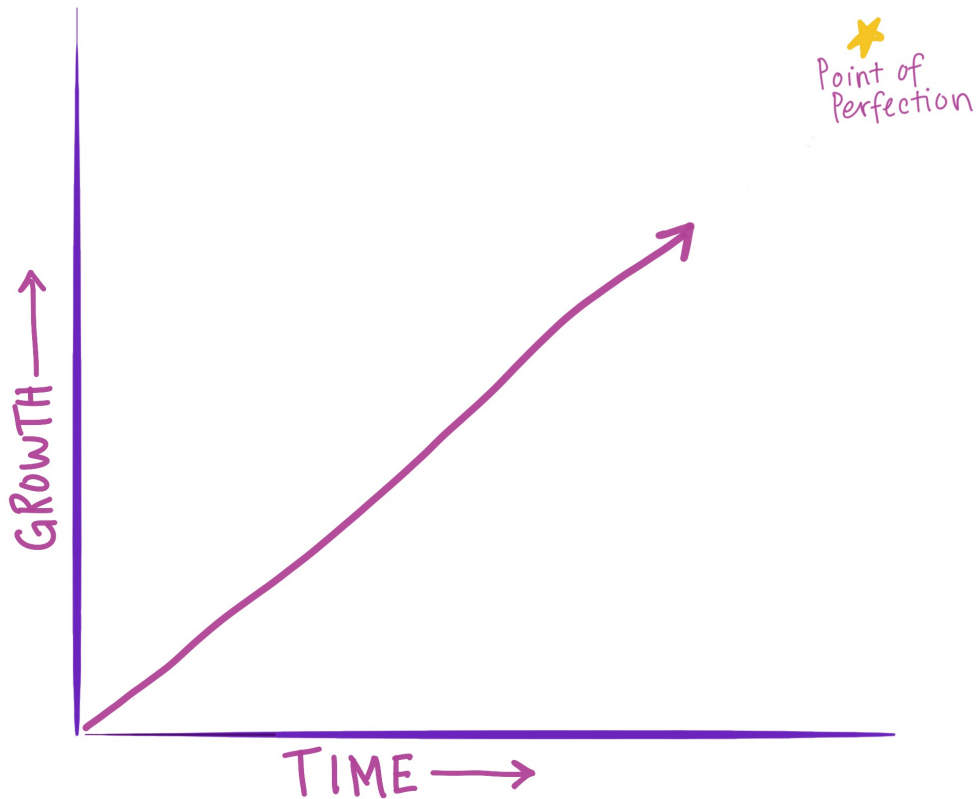
# set backs



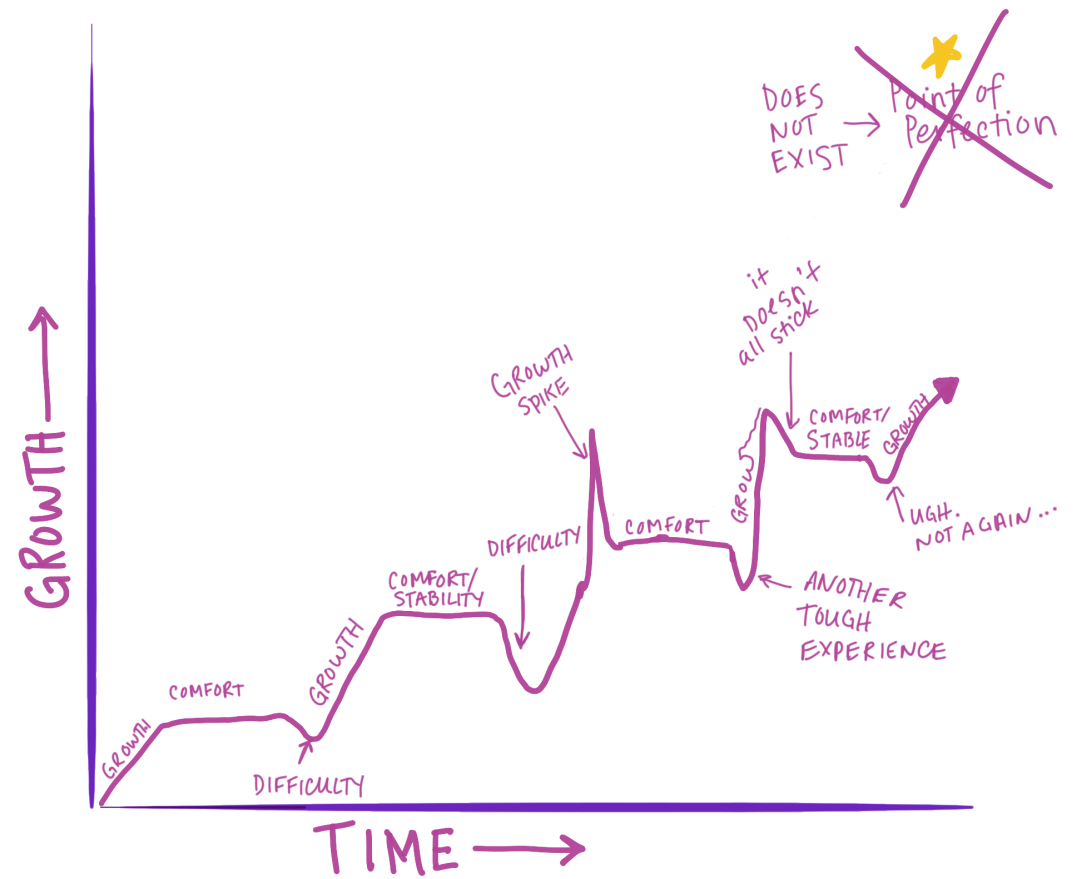


# expectations vs. reality

OUR IDEA of a GROWTH TRAJECTORY



a REALISTIC GROWTH TRAJECTORY



# expectations vs. reality



what religious formula did you believe would result in spiritual maturity?



# the many calls of simon peter

“One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. <sup>19</sup> Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” <sup>20</sup> And they left their nets at once and followed him.”

Matthew 4:18-20 & Mark 1:16-18

“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah”.

<sup>42</sup> Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John - but you will be called Cephas (Peter).”

John 1:40-42



# go fish!



“One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He noticed two empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So He sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

<sup>4</sup> When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish...”

Luke 5:1-11



# our default setting



Fishing is Peter's sense of **identity, security and provision apart from God**. This is the identity that he has **constructed** for himself. It is the self that he feels **safe** within.

Fishing is what he **knew**, what he could **control**, what he felt **comfortable** and **secure** within.

Peter felt more comfortable in the **self-constructed, predictable** world that he could **control** than under the leadership of Jesus where he had a **new name** and a **different identity**.

**PETER'S STORY IS OUR STORY TOO...**



# who we really are...

We are becoming who  
we will be-forever.

Dallas Willard



# jesus shows up

**GOD PURSUES US IN  
OUR RESTLESSNESS,  
RECEIVES US IN OUR SINFULNESS,  
HOLDS US IN OUR BROKENNESS.**

SCOTTY SMITH



**YOUR  
LOVE  
NEVER  
FAILS  
NEVER  
GIVES UP  
NEVER  
RUNS OUT  
ON ME**



# take it home...

1. We need to come to the understanding that our faith development will not follow a smooth, easy or predictable path and this path will look different than everyone else's.
2. Jesus has a true identity and calling that He wants to reveal to you that is different than the identity that you have built for yourself.
3. Jesus will never give up on you no matter how many times you try to ignore His call for you to give up your own way and follow Him. He persists and will find creative ways to break through to you.
4. Jesus wants you to experience Him in a real, life-changing, and personal way. He wants you to come to the end of yourself so that you will be ready to embrace Him and the identity He has for you.
5. Keep praying for breakthrough if you have yet to experience it.